

Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments

Arizona

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



General Management Plan

Newsletter #1, August 2003



Dear Friends,

The National Park Service (NPS) is undertaking a major effort, the development of a general management plan (GMP), to plan for the future of Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments. Developing the general management plan is an opportunity to establish a vision for use and management of Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments for the next 15 to 20 years. Planning for the monuments' future must consider past changes and anticipate future challenges. Growing populations, new technologies, changing land uses, and diverse visitor preferences affect management decisions. The draft general management plan will present different ideas (called alternatives) for protecting the resources, connecting with local communities, meeting the needs of visitors, and addressing public concerns. The plan will be combined with an environmental impact statement (EIS) that will analyze the impacts of implementing each of the alternative ideas for future management of the monuments.

In developing this management plan, the National Park Service will work closely with federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, interested parties, and the general public to identify common interests and goals and ways to collaborate. Developing partnerships with others can offer creative and efficient ways to achieve our future goals at Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments.

And we need your participation in this very important project that will help guide the monuments' management. Please join us in this effort. After reading this newsletter, please use the enclosed response card to share your thoughts about the monuments and get your name on the mailing list. We will keep you informed throughout the planning process with public meetings in September, newsletters, postings on the website (<planning.nps.gov/plans.cfm>), and a draft plan. If you have comments or questions at any point during this process, please feel free to contact us at:

General Management Plan
Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments
P.O. Box 219
Camp Verde, Arizona 86322-0219
(928)567-5276

We appreciate your interest in Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Kathy M. Davis
Superintendent
Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments

What is a General Management Plan

A general management plan provides a foundation to help park managers guide programs and set priorities for resource stewardship, visitor understanding and appreciation, partnerships, and facilities and operations for the next 15 to 20 years. The planning process focuses on why the park was established and results in a vision shared by NPS managers and the public about the kinds of resource conditions and visitor experiences that will best fulfill the purpose of the park over time. In prescribing the conditions and experiences to be achieved and maintained in the park, general management planning takes the long view, which may be decades into the future when dealing with the time frames of natural and cultural processes. The park is analyzed as a whole and as a part of larger ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic systems. This analysis includes current public use patterns and the condition of sensitive cultural and natural resources. This comprehensive approach includes coordination with park partners, other land managing agencies, and the public to help ensure that the decisions made through general management planning are widely supported and sustainable over time.

General management plans direct park managers to focus their activities on achieving the conditions and experiences prescribed by the plan, but they generally stop short of directing specific activities, recognizing that managers may have to continuously adapt their activities based on changing information or influences.



Major Steps In The General Management Plan

Producing a general management plan involves many steps and will take about three years to complete. The management plan process for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments is just beginning. The park staff and technical specialists from NPS offices in Denver, Colorado, form the planning team for the general management plan. The planning team will be working with the public, government agencies, and other stakeholders throughout this process. The following is a list of the general steps of the GMP process. (Please see page 6.)

- Project Startup
- Identify the Planning Context
- Develop and Evaluate Alternatives
- Prepare and Publish the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* (DGMP/EIS)
- Revise and Publish the *Final General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* (FGMP/EIS)
- Implement the Approved Plan

Purpose and Significance Statements and Primary Interpretive Themes

The planning team has developed the following park purpose and significance statements and primary interpretive themes.

Purpose Statements

Purpose statements provide the foundation for the management and use of each unit of the national park system; they also reaffirm the reason why each area was established as a unit of the national park system. These statements help neighbors, visitors, cooperating agencies, and other users understand the framework in which park managers make decisions. The following purpose statements have been refined over time and are based on monuments' establishing legislation as well as laws and policies governing management of all national park system units.



The purposes of Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments are:

1. Preserve and manage prehistoric and historic structures and their related resources within Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well and Tuzigoot.
2. Protect and manage ecological processes and conditions related to the mix of desert and riparian habitats to maintain sustainable cultural and natural landscapes.
3. Promote stewardship through education and interpretation of continuing cultural adaptations to a desert environment.
4. Provide opportunities for the exploration of appropriate ethnological and scientific interests.

Significance Statements

Significance statements build on the park's purpose and clearly state why, within a national context, the park's resources and values are important enough to warrant the designation of a national park. These statements identify the resources and values that are central to managing the area and express the importance of the area to our natural and cultural heritage. The following are the significance statements for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments.

- Montezuma Castle is the largest and best preserved Sinaguan cliff dwelling in the southwest.

- Tuzigoot is one of the largest known pueblos of Sinaguan origin and serves as a benchmark of the Tuzigoot phase of the archeological record.
- The excavation and restoration of Tuzigoot is one of the best examples of pioneering archeological efforts in the southwest.
- Archaeological collections are the largest artifact assembly of the Southern Sinaguan culture of the Verde Valley, including the Tuzigoot phase of pre-history and tradeware.
- Montezuma Well is a unique spring-fed limestone sink connected to remnants of an extensive pre-historic irrigation system via a natural outlet.
- Montezuma Well has incredible scientific value since it contains several forms of plants and animals not found in any other waters in the world due to its constantly warm waters and high levels of dissolved carbon dioxide.
- The monuments preserve a mixture of riparian and desert landscapes that sustain a biological system that is rich in diversity and supports life on a local, national and global scale. The major and several smaller cliff dwellings, numerous other sites, artifacts and the surrounding desert landscape have enormous potential for teaching about native peoples and how they adapted and thrived in an arid environment.
- The monuments represent the continuum of land use from Sinagua to historic farming since the 1800's.

Primary Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are ideas, concepts, or stories that are central to the park's purpose, significance, identity, and visitor experience. The primary interpretive themes define concepts that every visitor should have the opportunity to learn. Primary themes also provide the framework for the park's interpretation and educational programs, influence the visitor experience, and provide direction for planners and designers of the park's exhibits, publications, and audiovisual programs. Below are the primary interpretive themes for Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments.

- Land use patterns and human settlements of the Verde Valley illustrate the transition from prehistory to contemporary human influence in the West, and serve as a link to our living cultural heritage.
- The cultural integrity of Montezuma Castle, Montezuma Well, and Tuzigoot (including quality and quantity of original fabric, historic records and artifacts, and the cultural/natural landscape) showcase the successful occupation of the Verde Valley by a large community for over 300 years.
- The riparian areas of the Verde Valley represent a green ribbon of life, which set the stage for ongoing human survival in a harsh desert environment by providing rich biological resources, opportunities for irrigation and agriculture, and a network of travel routes.
- Tuzigoot and Montezuma Castle National Monuments serve as benchmarks of pioneering archeological efforts in the southwest, including restoration and preservation field techniques and research related to chronologies of prehistoric settlement.
- The Verde Valley's unique geology, topography, and climate support a high degree of biological diversity that has local, national, and global significance.

How You Can Participate

The next step of the process involves collecting your thoughts on opportunities and concerns for managing the park. Your involvement throughout

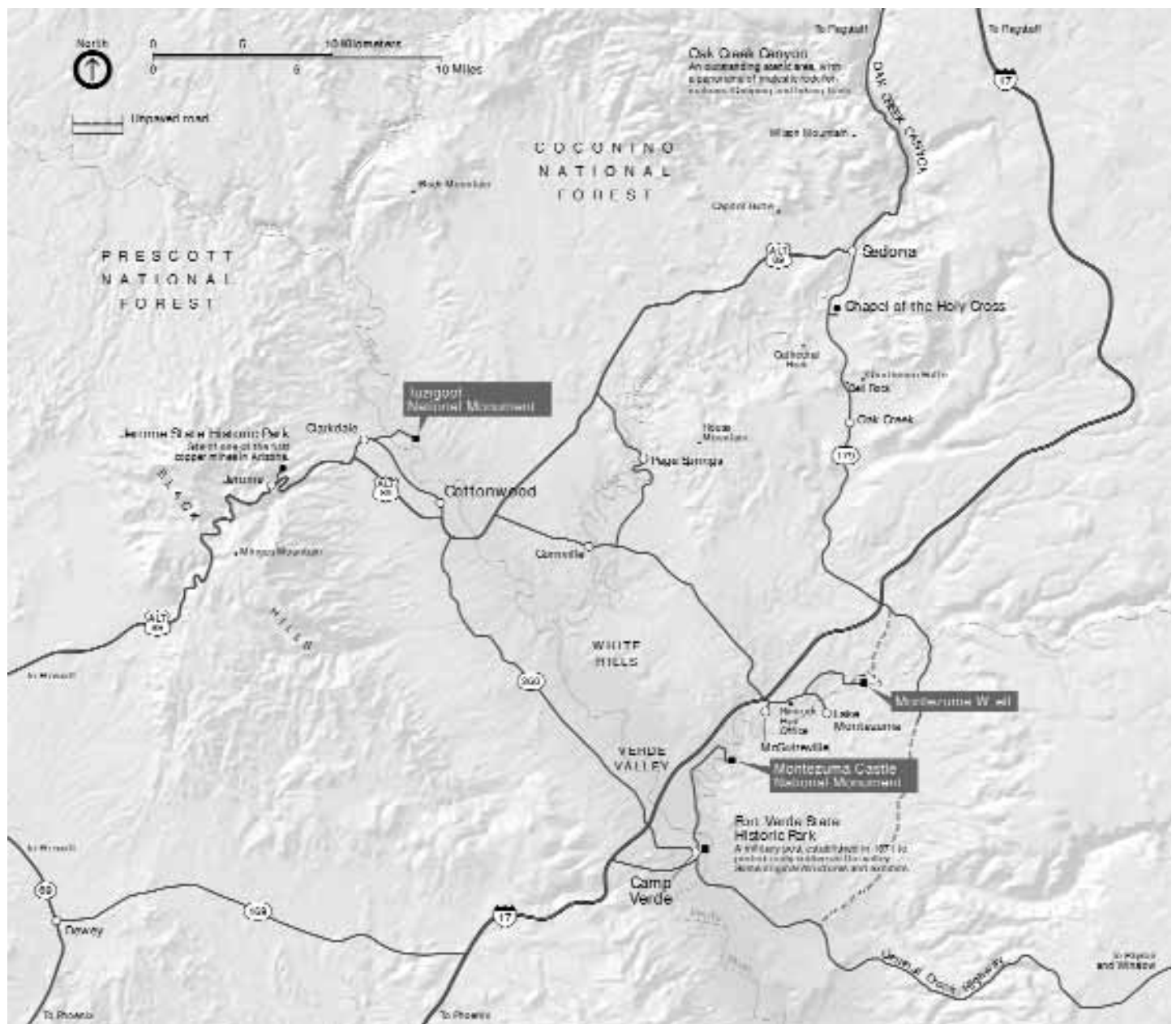
the process is a key component for the success of the general management plan. Please take a moment to fill out the enclosed comment form and return it to the NPS planning team by October 1, 2003. Your thoughts and concerns provide valuable information on the goals and issues to be addressed in the document.

Over the course of the project you will have several other opportunities (through newsletters and meetings) to share your concerns, ideas, and comments. You will receive future newsletters and be informed of meeting times, dates, and locations.

For more information about the planning process, you can contact the NPS at (303)969-2674 or log onto the Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments home page at www.nps.gov/moca/index.htm.

Please plan to attend one of the initial scoping meetings/workshops to find out more about this planning project. During these meetings, we would like you to meet some of the park staff and planning team and express your ideas about the park. The meetings will be held as open houses from 3:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M., with a presentation by the superintendent of Montezuma Castle and Tuzigoot National Monuments given at 3:30 P.M. and 6:00 P.M. The open house meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, September 24 and Thursday, September 25, 2003. Please see this newsletter's back page for open house locations. We hope to see you there!

Please be aware that due to public disclosure requirements, the National Park Service, if requested, is required to make public the names and addresses of commenters. This typically occurs in sites in which there is considerable controversy regarding park plans. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. The National Park Service will then determine whether the information can be withheld under the Freedom of Information Act, and we will honor your request to the extent allowed by law. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or business, available for public inspection in their entirety.



STEP		PLANNING ACTIVITY	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITY
	1	Project Startup. Assemble planning team, determine the scope of the project, design the process for carrying out the project, determine issues and concerns, and gather and analyze information.	Completed
WE ARE HERE	2	Identify the Planning Context. Reaffirm the purpose, significance, and primary interpretive themes and continue to gather and analyze information.	Read newsletter #1 and send us your comments; attend public meetings.
	3	Develop and Evaluate Alternatives. Develop a reasonable range of alternative futures for the park.	Read newsletter #2 and send us your comments; attend public meetings.
	4	Prepare and Publish the Draft GMP/EIS. The Draft GMP/EIS will be prepared and distributed for public review. The draft documents will describe the planning context, management alternatives, and impacts.	Read <i>Draft GMP/EIS</i> and send us your comments; attend public meetings.
	5	Revise and Publish the Final GMP/ EIS. Appropriate changes will be made to the draft document based on public comments, environmental analysis, and other information. The Final GMP/EIS will be distributed, and a "Record of Decision" will be signed.	Read Final GMP EIS.
	6	Implement the Plan. After the "Record of Decision" is issued, the management direction in the plan will be carried out as funding allows.	



Public Involvement Opportunity

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

3:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Camp Verde Chamber of Commerce

385 S. Main Street

Camp Verde, Arizona 86322

Thursday, September 25, 2003

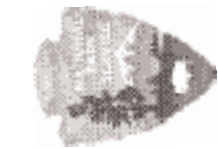
3:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Clarkdale Club House

19 North 9th Street

Clarkdale, Arizona 86324





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Denver, Colorado 80225

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